

Dear Energy and Technology Committee Member,

I am writing today for your support to add real solutions to HB 7251 that will ensure a healthy future for solar in Connecticut. We added solar panels to our home several years ago and found them to reduce our energy cost without any maintenance issues. Today I write as the President of Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust. We are in the process of reviewing the possibilities of adding solar panels to some or all of the eight buildings on our campus or to install a ground - based solar array to meet the electrical needs of the organization. In addition we plan to use the solar installation as an educational tool for students and adults to teach them about the importance of solar energy to conserve the environment. But to make these actions possible we need strong solar policies in CT including the maintenance of net metering to reduce our costs.

Connecticut needs strong solar policies to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet our climate mandates. Net metering is THE critical policy behind solar development in Connecticut and across the nation.

Net metering provides a credit to solar energy producers (including residential rooftop customers and businesses) who send their extra power to the electric grid. Unfortunately, Connecticut's current net metering program was eliminated by P.A. 18-50 (SB 9) last year and is on track to be replaced by two flawed policies similar to those that have killed solar jobs in other states.

The elimination of Connecticut's current net metering program:

- puts 2,200 solar jobs at risk.
- Harms solar growth and puts our state at risk of missing our climate goals.
- is based on unfounded "cost shift" theory—Solar provides only 1-2% of Connecticut's total electricity. U.S. Department of Energy found that cost shifts are "imperceptible" in areas with less than 10% solar, and the Brookings Institution found net metering is a net benefit to ratepayers.

Connecticut is running out of time for a fix—and needs this Committee to act boldly now. I urge you to revise HB7251 to retain net metering.

Sincerely,
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